



Stormwater Management Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

May 2, 2019

3:00 pm

Conference Room 305
Raleigh Municipal Building

Commission Members Present: David Markwood, David Webb, Claudia Graham, Mark Senior, Ken Carper, Matthew Starr, Jemonde Taylor, and Evan Kane

Staff Members Present: Wayne Miles, Suzette Mitchell, Kelly Daniel, Allison McGarity, Kristin Freeman, Dale Hyatt, Scott Bryant, Veronica High, Barbara Moranta, Wenju Zhang, Carmela Teichman, Ben Brown, and Heather Dutra

Commission Members Absent: Tappan Vickery and Jonathan Page

Guests: Marsha Presnell-Jennette, Ken Trefzger, Sujit Ekka, James Kutzer, Chris Stanley, Stephanie Hanes, and Brenna Harrell

Meeting called to order: 3:00 pm by Matthew Starr (*chair*)

1. Welcome, Introductions, Excused and Unexcused Absence

- Mr. Senior made a motion to excuse Tappan Vickery and Jonathan Page from today's meeting, and both Ms. Graham and Mr. Markwood seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

2. April 4, 2019 Minutes for Approval

- Mr. Senior made a motion to approve and Mr. Carper seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

**3. Stormwater Staff Report
Promotion**

- *Water Quality - Amy Farinelli (Engineer)*

New Hire

- *Capital Improvement Projects - Barbara Moranta (Senior Engineer)*

Hot Topics

Update on Flood Prone Area Stakeholder's Group – There were two meetings held in April. Meeting content included a presentation, discussions and questions. At the next meeting, Kristin Freeman will do a presentation on floodplain surveys, issues, and other concerns.

4. Drainage Assistance Projects Review

Dale Hyatt (*Drainage Assistance Supervisor*) went over the one project that is up for review and noted that it is the last project recommended for this fiscal year.



Greystone Manor – 7314 Doverton Court - Severe bank erosion exists within 10 feet of the structure. Immediately downstream of this erosion is the Greystone Manor Amenity Pond. This project was originally identified in 2016 when the erosion was approximately 15 feet from the structure. This project will stabilize approximately 90 linear feet (LF) of stream bank.

<i>Estimated Project Costs</i>	
FY19 Project Funds Approved to Date	\$1,357,000
<i>Greystone Manor (7314 Doverton Ct)</i>	\$143,000
FY19 Budget	\$1,500,000
<i>FY19 Remaining DA Funds (after project)</i>	\$0

Questions and Comments

Mr. Senior commented that it seems like it was plotted after the buffer rules, so how did they get close to the creek bed. **Dale Hyatt** answered that it was plotted in 1998 and built in 1999 probably around the buffer rule timing, but well within the 50 feet.

Motion

Mr. Senior made a motion to approve the project and **Mr. Carper** seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Status Report on the Integrated Watershed Management Program (IWMP)

Scott Bryant gave a brief statement on the program and introduced Ken Trefzger who will provide a detailed presentation on the progress of the program.

Ken Trefzger (*Project Manager – HDR*) said that HDR is a project team lead and went over a list of sub-project team members that are contributing to this effort. His presentation focuses on a long-term sustainable data management system, and a watershed-based master planning framework. Step 1 – Implementation strategies for various program elements, Step 2 – Data capture, integration, tools and protocols, Step 3 – Problem identification and conceptual designs, Step 4 – Watershed planning and visualization tool development and Step 5 – Integrated Watershed Master Plan launch.

Mr. Starr noted in the stormwater asset management slide (*step 2*) that the infrastructure planning and data collection was mentioned as being proactive. He wanted to know if it included identifying areas for retrofit to include (*GI/LID or GSI*) when speaking about the harden structures already in place. **Mr. Trefzger** stated that's more on the program planning. **Mr. Starr** said if you are doing asset management and you are identifying areas that need to be improved or bigger, then that would be a key area to identify. **Mr. Trefzger** responded saying it goes into the scoring. He stated that asset management becomes part of the scoring and from there, if we have conditions, criticality and probability scores, that goes into what you are saying. It will be part of the larger plan when we identify the projects. **Scott Bryant** added that we consider stormwater asset management as both constructed and natural assets for this integrated approach.



Wayne Miles remarked when staff is developing the proposed budget for next fiscal year, this will be a key element in putting the pieces together on where we want to expand programs, and where we potentially ask for a rate increase.

6. Stormwater Management Division Communications Plan for FY2020

Kristin Freeman (Communications Specialist) indicated her slide presentation will focus on the communications strategy for the next fiscal year. The presentation consists of successful communication, 2019-2020 communication projects, and benchmarks and themes.

Mr. Taylor referenced one of the slides in the previous IWMP presentation that showed internet access at home. He noted that South/Southeast Raleigh mostly has a brown/black population with the lowest rate of home internet accessibility, so what is the plan in engaging those without internet access. **Kristin Freeman** said it's in the plan and they will be working closely with HDR on that.

Wayne Miles asked Kristin to speak about the education series done last year for hurricane flooding preparation and what the plans are for this year. **Kristin Freeman** said last year for the very first time they did a flooding series over two nights (*Walnut Creek Wetland and Lake Lynn*) giving residents the opportunity to come to either location. Staff gave a presentation on the floodplain to bring more awareness while other staff talked about various program elements. Surveys were sent for public input giving residents a chance to share where they experience flooding, and the feedback received was positive. This year the plan is to have the same concept, but we are hoping to partner with the NC Museum of Natural Sciences to reach more people than what we did before.

Mr. Starr said he's hesitant on the effectiveness of our outreach to environmental justice communities. He encourages the City to partner with the Walnut Creek group to improve communications and outreach.

7. Introduction of New Commission Member

Jemonde Taylor introduced himself as director of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church (*near Walnut Creek Wetland Center*). He said he's honored to serve on the Commission. His background is in engineering and given where the church is located he believes it's a good mix for this Commission. He stated the church is a Raleigh Rainwater Rewards participant (rain garden) and they will be looking into installing cisterns.

8. Public Comment

Marsha Presnell-Jennette (*resides near southwest area of Beaverdam Creek*) spoke on a large tree that fell in the stream. She's been in conversation with neighbors about the stream that goes through their backyard. The property adjoining hers has lots of trees, and as of today, the property owner will have major maintenance done on the property, which some of those trees will be coming down. There's already a severe erosion problem. She's been in the house since 1992, and since the tree loss she has lost 20-25 feet of yard because the City policy is only to take care of failing structures and ignoring the loss they are experiencing. The neighbors are concerned about trees falling. She's walked down the stream, which is difficult and unsafe, but she saw on the neighbor's property a stormwater culvert pipe that takes street water to the stream, and the segment of the pipe has fallen away for decades and contributes to loss of their yard. One of the



trees growing close to the stream has roots entwined that has undercut erosion and the tree is starting to fall. The ground is falling away with all the exposed roots, and both she and the neighbors are concerned they will soon have another fallen tree in the stream due to the trees coming down in the next few weeks, which will cause more stormwater runoff going down that property into the stream. She's concerned about the sediment in the stream, and the serious erosion. She cannot express how important it is for the backyard stream program to get underway. She would like some assurance that it will be ready for the next Raleigh City Council budget discussion. The infrastructure and the ignorance of the condition of the infrastructure is a phenomenon. She states there's a tremendous need as fast as development is happening, she can see in her backyard the increasing red clay running in her yard after rain events. There's tremendous loading on the stream corridors and undersized culverts for the water to run through. The Commission has a big important job to do and she would love to see the stormwater stream project get attention because it is a serious problem.

Wayne Miles commented that we will make the streambank program a priority for budget presentation for next fiscal year (FY2021). He recognizes that it will require a rate increase that will be brought to Raleigh City Council tying in specially to the stream bank restoration program. We will give the Commission the opportunity to comment on this program as well as others that we bring forward for possible expansion.

Mr. Kane asked how often are projects that are waiting on the drainage assistance list re-scored or re-evaluated. He wanted to know if it was scheduled or based on complaints. **Dale Hyatt** answered that it's based on complaints. He stated with all the projects there's no way that staff can go out and look at them on a routine basis. He said if conditions were to change at any point, staff can come out and re-access, re-score, and re-prioritize. **Mr. Kane** commented that he understands funding is limited, and there must be an objective prioritization system, but it's frustrating watching projects being as close as three and now it's 18 on the list. It's a big challenge and the backyard steam program cannot come soon enough.

Mark Senior remarked he understands the frustration and the Drainage Assistance budget is only \$1.5 million, which is more stormwater budget than most of the towns he works with. He said they don't have anything like the City, and it's frustrating the amount of problems we can't get too, but we are doing better than most of the communities in the State. The money we could spend is astronomical, but we must keep attacking it.

9. Other Business

No further business

Adjournment

Mr. Senior made a motion to adjourn and **Mr. Carper** seconded. The motion was passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 4:28 pm.

Suzette Mitchell